

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE  
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT  
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M.  
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

9:00 A.M.- President Oney called the meeting to order, and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following were in attendance:

Present: Commissioners, Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson, and President Oney  
Absent: None

Others attending the meeting were:

Executive Director Rick Fancher, Operations Manager Mike Nordstrom, Attorney Tom Schooley, Superintendent Justin Roehr, and Engineer Charlie Juneau

**PUBLIC COMMENT**      None.

**PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

The City of Collinsville: Notice of Petition for Annexation of Eastport Plaza Drive, Parcel #13-1-21-30-00-000-003 to the City of Collinsville.

- President Oney explained that this is mandatory notification upon annexation to all taxing bodies. MESD will remain unaffected, so he recommends MESD takes no action.

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Fancher reported the following:

The mowing crews are currently completing their final cut for the summer season. They have also resumed their working hours from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Our foreman, Tyquiel, led the Water Infrastructure Team on a field trip, exploring St. Clair County locations such as, Frank Holten State Park and Harding Ditch, projects they are wanting to secure funding for. The study has been 100% federally funded by the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Sullivan a representative from the Corps, mentioned the possibility of the District serving as a sponsor, suggesting a 75/25 funding split, with the sponsor contributing 25%. Mr. Fancher recommended to Mr. Sullivan that he presents this to the MESD Board; however, he believes it would best for Cahokia or East St Louis to sponsor.

President Oney asked, “So, they are looking for money and for MESD to administrate the fund as well?”

- Mr. Fancher said, “Yes. They want it to be regional funding where people from the region contribute to a fund, similar to the Blue Water Ditch fund. Each region puts money in, and when the funds are expended, the communities pay back into it.”
  - o Commissioner Jackson asked if this work includes Harding Ditch.
    - Mr. Fancher responded, “Yes, Harding Ditch is one of the main projects, and people living on the bluffs contributing their fair share, considering we are getting their water.”
    - Commissioner Jackson stated he will bring this matter to his mayor and provide an update at the next meeting.
      - o President Oney emphasized that, before MESD considers anything, a projected plan and costs will be required.
        - Mr. Fancher noted it is in such infancy stages, no real costs have been assessed yet.
        - President Oney suggested reaching out to Mr. Clayborn. This is potential funding that SWIFPD can support.

Mr. Fancher reported the Corps project for Relief Well Station #1 is currently on hold because of backordered products. The project completion date is projected to be finished by August 2024.

- President Oney asked with this delay in the project what is the backup plan.
  - o Mr. Fancher responded the plan would involve opening the gates adjacent to the Central Port 408 Pump Station and letting it pump out.

Lastly, Mr. Fancher reported that the existing camera system in all buildings is insufficient. Superintendent Roehr is actively working on obtaining quotes for a new system.

Mr. Roehr provided a report on the camera system quotes. Utilitra, our current IT company, quoted \$40,700, encompassing 9 cameras, software, and monitoring. This is the same system the City of Granite City currently uses. The second quote is a verkada camera system from CDS Office Technologies at \$29,000, offering a 3-year lease option with full warranty at \$575 a month, covering equipment maintenance that includes equipment that would go down as well. He will be meeting with Barcom Thursday for a third quote and expects them to be around the same price as CDS Office Technologies. Justin went on to say the primary concern is having a functional camera system in the billing office,

- Commissioner Brinza asked if this is for the pump stations too.
  - o Mr. Roehr clarified that the proposed camera system is for the Edison Avenue, Madison Avenue, Washington Park Garage, and Missouri Avenue buildings. He also recommended installing one at North Pump Station, given the high volume of traffic in that area.

### **REPORT OF ENGINEER**

Joe Juneau inquired if anyone had any question regarding Charlie Juneau's report included in the packets.

- President Oney raised a question, expressing confusion as he believed the gates were previously fixed by Keller Construction, yet the report mentions replacing them.
  - o Mr. Juneau responded that the gate fixes were temporary.
    - Mr. Fancher added that while the gates are currently functional, the Corps recommended conducting a study on them to assess the cost of potential replacements, considering they are older models.
      - President Oney emphasized that this should be added to the priority list, which was discussed during the last board meeting.

**MINUTES**

The Regular Minutes for September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson to dispense with the reading of the minutes, approve them as submitted and place them on file.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

**CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS**

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the General Fund and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

---

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of September 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the General Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

---

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of September 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Special Funds Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

---

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of September 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Brinza to approve the Lansdowne Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

**PAYROLL**

The Payroll for the period of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, through September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Payroll as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

---

The Payroll for the period of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Brinza to approve the Payroll as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

**LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT**

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

- President Oney inquired about the note on the \$6000 adjustment report.
  - o Mrs. Partney explained that this is a multiple owner, Meachum Crossing, and she suspects it may be a posting error by the pollution clerk. She will discuss this with the clerk and provide the board with an update via email.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Report as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

**REPORT OF ATTORNEYS**      No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**      None.



**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion and/or approval of the annual Lansdowne Financial Report for fiscal year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

- President Oney stated everyone received a copy of the financial report in their packets. He noted Lansdowne is maintaining stability, and the rate increase has been beneficial.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approval of the annual Lansdowne Financial Report for fiscal year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

---

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-016 consistent with Ordinance 2021-0-011 establishing uniform rates for pipeline Spire Company and updating Ordinance 731 to enter along, upon and over and use of the land, levees, and easements in project 1 of MESD.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Brinza approval of Ordinance 2023-0-016 consistent with Ordinance 2021-0-011 establishing uniform rates for pipeline Spire Company and updating Ordinance 731 to enter along, upon and over and use of the land, levees, and easements in project 1 of MESD.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-017 adoption of the Madison County Multi-Jurisdiction All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

- Mr. Fancher explained 15 communities in Madison County and the Port Authority have adopted this plan. To be eligible for FEMA funds, MESD needs to be a co-participant in the Madison County Flood Plan. Unfortunately, when this was renewed in 2022, MESD was not contacted. Becoming part of the plan means the County would be the primary participant, with MESD serving as the secondary participant.
  - o President Oney asked if there are any drawbacks being part of the plan.
    - Mr. Fancher clarified it doesn't entail any negatives. Adopting the plan involves adopting guidelines established by the County through HeartLand Conservancy, focusing on proper run-offs, holding ponds, and similar considerations.
    - President Oney asserted this plan is hazards, while Mr. Fancher is discussing stormwater. He suggested tabling the ordinance until they confirm they are adopting the correct plan.
      - o Mr. Fancher stated he believes it's all interconnected, but the plan doesn't need to be passed immediately. He will verify the details and bring it back to the Board at the next meeting.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to table Ordinance 2023-0-017 adoption of the Madison County Multi-Jurisdiction All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-018 establishing uniform rates for pipelines to Explorer Pipeline and updating Ordinance 729 to enter along, upon and over and use of the land, levees, and easements of MESD.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approval of Ordinance 2023-0-018 establishing uniform rates for pipelines to Explorer Pipeline and updating Ordinance 729 to enter along, upon and over and use of the land, levees, and easements of MESD.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

---

Discussion and/or approval of Resolution to authorize property tax abatement for BHMGE Engineers Eastport Plaza Center Development.

- Commissioner Brinza stated if he is reading this right, MESD is already abating taxes for an improvement on those parcels.
- President Oney highlighted it's an enterprise zone with a 10-year plan. For the initial 7 years, it's at zero percent, gradually increasing 40 percent, to 60 percent, until it reaches 100 percent after 10 years. His concern is processing water from Collinsville, which is outside MESD territory and not subject to taxation. He expressed the understanding for development, noting that if all Collinsville and the bluffs were within the District he would support it. MESD is covering all the costs of water coming off the bluffs, and Collinsville wants us to give up more revenue. Mr. Oney stated he disagrees and will be voting against it.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin of Resolution to authorize property tax abatement for BHMGE Engineers Eastport Plaza Center Development.

Upon roll call, the motion was defeated by the following vote:

Ayes: None  
Nays: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney

There being no further business placed before the Board, Motion Commissioner Darwin:  
seconded by Commissioner Brinza to adjourn.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

So, adjourned at 9:28 A.M.

  
Clerk